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SECURITY COUNCIL
Fifty-second year

Letter dated 28 October 1997 from the Permanent Representative of Cyprus to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit herewith the extract on the question of Cyprus from the final communiqué of the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting, which took place in Edinburgh, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, from 24 to 27 October 1997.

I should be grateful if the text of the present letter and its annex could be circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 61, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Nicos AGATHOCLEOUS
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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ANNEX

Extract on the question of Cyprus from the final communiqué of the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting held in Edinburgh, from 24 to 27 October 1997

23. Heads of Government reaffirmed their support for the sovereignty, independence, territorial integrity and unity of the Republic of Cyprus. They called for the implementation of United Nations resolutions on Cyprus, in particular Security Council resolutions 365 (1974), 550 (1984) and 839 (1993). They regretted that negotiations on a solution have been at an impasse for too long and strongly supported the process of direct intercommunal talks under the United Nations Secretary-General's mission of good offices. They expressed concern about recent threats of use of force and integration of the occupied territory by Turkey and reiterated support for the demilitarization proposal of President Clerides. They called for the withdrawal of all Turkish forces and settlers, the return of the refugees to their homes, the restoration of and respect for human rights of all Cypriots and the accounting of all missing persons. They expressed concern and disappointment that progress had been impeded by the efforts of the Turkish Cypriot side to introduce preconditions to the talks and called for a cooperative attitude from all sides for the achievement of a comprehensive, just and workable settlement on the basis of a bi-communal and bi-zonal federation. While noting the existence of the Commonwealth Action Group on Cyprus, they welcomed the initiative of the Commonwealth Secretary-General to nominate an observer at the United Nations-sponsored negotiations. They recognized that the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, as a permanent member of the Security Council and as a guarantor Power, has a special position in this matter.